

Service Date: April 11, 2014

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

IN THE MATTER OF the Application of)	REGULATORY DIVISION
NorthWestern Energy for Hydro Assets)	
Purchase)	DOCKET NO. D2013.12.85

NOTICE OF STAFF ACTION

On December 20, 2013, NorthWestern Corporation, doing business as NorthWestern Energy (NorthWestern), filed its *Application for Hydro Assets Purchase* (Application) with the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission).

On February 21, 2014, the Commission issued Data Requests PSC-131 through PSC-195. On March 7, 2014, NorthWestern filed Responses to PSC-131 through PSC-195. Also on March 7, 2014, NorthWestern filed a *Motion for Protective Order* (Motion), seeking to protect information that reveals Ascend Analytics, LLC's billing rates for services to NorthWestern. This information is included in documents requested by Data Request PSC-131. NorthWestern provided the responsive documents after redacting the sensitive information.

After reviewing NorthWestern's filed response, Commission staff has determined that the response is satisfactory and that there is no need for NorthWestern to provide additional information in response to Data Request PSC-131. Therefore, the Commission hereby withdraws Data Request PSC-131 to the extent it requests the information that NorthWestern seeks to protect in its Motion. The Commission does not withdraw PSC-131 to the extent that it has already been publicly answered.

BY THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
W. A. (BILL) GALLAGHER, Chairman
BOB LAKE, Vice Chairman
KIRK BUSHMAN, Commissioner
TRAVIS KAVULLA, Commissioner
ROGER KOOPMAN, Commissioner